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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,324	06/10/2005	Jean-Marc Gueugneaud	21029-00299-US1	4037
30678	7590	09/22/2006	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP			PHAN, HAU VAN	
P.O. BOX 2207			ART UNIT	
WILMINGTON, DE 19899-2207			PAPER NUMBER	
			3618	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/538,324		GUEUGNEAUD, JEAN-MARC	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Hau V. Phan		3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/10/2005</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 6/10/2005 has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "characterized in that: the pivot comprises, in the region of the end of the steering column furthest from the fork, on its exterior surface" is not clear, which one is characterized the steering headset or the pivot. It is unclear, what the term "its" refers to.

Regarding claim 1, the phrase "complementing those of the pivot, is provided" is not clear, which one is provided to allow the axial clamping.

Regarding claim 2, the phrase "consist of a ring of determined length slipped around the pivot and fixed to the latter" is not clear, what is determine length and fixed to the later.

Regarding claim 9, the claim does not recite any further limitation.

5. The claims 1-9 are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

7. **Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klein, Jr. (3,785,676).**

Klein, Jr. in figures 1-2, discloses an assembly for a bicycle fork and of a steering headset on a steering column (24) of a bicycle frame. The fork is being secured to a pivot, which is extended beyond the end of the steering column furthest from the fork to allow the attachment of a handlebar by externally clamping the pivot. The steering headset comprises a lower bearing (figure 4) and an upper bearing, which are arranged between the pivot and column, while an adjusting means for adjusting he axial clamping of the steering headset provided. The pivot comprises first connecting means at an end portion of the steering column. The steering column has no such connecting means at the extension, which is used to attach of the handlebar. Klein, Jr. also discloses a

bushing (70), which is equipped with second connecting means to allow the axial clamping of the steering headset to be adjusted by collaboration with the first connecting means.

Regarding claims 2 and 10, Klein, Jr. discloses the connecting means consisting a ring (50).

Regarding claim 3, Klein, Jr. discloses the ring having an external screw thread constituting the first connecting means.

Regarding claim 4, Klein, Jr. discloses the second connecting means that are formed by an internal screw thread provided on the bushing and the conjugate of that of the ring.

Regarding claim 5, Klein, Jr. discloses the ring that is fixed to the pivot by bonding.

Regarding claim 6, Klein, Jr. discloses the pivot, which is made of composite and the attached ring is made of metal.

Regarding claim 7, Klein, Jr. discloses the bushing that is formed of a steering cup.

Regarding claim 8, Klein, Jr. discloses a rotation-proofing brake, which is provided between the bushing and the pivot.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Arlen discloses a handlebar assemblies.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hau V. Phan whose telephone number is 571-272-6696. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on 571-272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hau V Phan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3618

Hau Phan
9/7/06